

Dam Emergency Conditions

When there are high flood waters or a situation at a dam the dam owners/operators will designate an emergency condition. This is NOT to be confused with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's dam hazard classification. In Warren County the emergency conditions are the same for each dam. This is not necessarily the case in other counties.

Condition A: Urgent Event – dam failure imminent or in progress

This is an extremely urgent situation when a dam failure is occurring or is about to occur and cannot be prevented. Flash flooding will occur immediately downstream of the dam within minutes of the dam failure.

Condition B: Potential Failure or Equipment Malfunction – a situation is developing.

This condition could almost be divided into two separate conditions due to the large spectrum it covers. This situation may eventually lead to dam failure, but there is not an immediate threat of dam failure. On the other hand, this could just be a sensor that has malfunctioned.

Condition C: Non-Failure Event – potential flooding

This level is assigned when there is no danger of dam failing, but flow conditions are such that flooding is expected to occur downstream of the dam.